

A NEW SPECIES OF CRITONIA (ASTERACEAE-EUPATORIEAE) FROM BELIZE

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In connection with ongoing studies of the Compositae of Central America the following undescribed taxon was noted. I am grateful to M. C. Johnston for the Latin diagnosis and to GH for the loan of material.

Critonia belizeana B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

Critonia lanicaule accedens sed foliis glabris, capitulis floribusque minoribus valde differt.

Herbaceous shrub to 2 m tall. Stems rounded, green, puberulent. Leaves glabrous, except for the major nerves; petioles 0.5-5.0 mm long; blades narrowly oval, coarsely dentate, reticulately-veined, acute at the apex, 6-14 cm long, 3-5 cm wide. Capitulescence terminal, cymose-paniculate, the cymules arising out of leafy bracts. Heads broadly turbinate, 14-15 mm long on ultimate pedicels 35 mm long. Involucre 5-6 seriate, 12-13 mm long; bracts markedly gradate, broadly ovate, the apex obtuse, puberulent to glabrate, the inner series readily deciduous. Receptacle convex, the central portion often "hollowed-out". Corolla tubular, seemingly white, 5.5-6.0 mm long; throat scarcely distinguished from the tube, if at all; lobes 5, ca. 0.5 mm long. Anthers ca. 1.4 mm long, the appendages short, ca. as wide as long. Style appendages linear, relatively smooth. Achenes 3.5-4.0 mm long, 4-5 ribbed, black to brown, hispid above, mostly between the ribs; carpopodium 4-5 sided, gradually merging into the ribs; pappus of 50-60 persistent setae, 4-5 mm long.

TYPE: BELIZE. S peak of Saddle Back, ca. 2.5 mi NW of Punta Gorda; 500-600 ft.; clearing on rocky limestone hilltop; 19 Apr 1976, G. R. Proctor 35818 (holotype GH).

The species is readily related to Critonia lanicaule (B. L. Rob.) K. & R. but differs markedly in its glabrate foliage, smaller heads with smaller florets, etc. Critonia lanicaule has been collected from Chiapas to Honduras where it reportedly occurs in rocky places at relatively low elevations. Inclusion of C. belizeana in the Critonia complex of Eupatorium (sensu lati) follows that of King & Robinson, but additional more inclusive study might show the species to be more closely

related to yet other generic segregates such as Peteravenia K. & R. In fact, C. lanicaulis and C. belizeana are readily placed in the latter group if King and Robinson (1979) hold to the view that Eupatorium cyrili-nelsonii A. Molina belongs to the Peteravenia grouping, a view not accepted by Mr. Randy Scott (pers. comm.) who has studied the latter in considerable detail. In short, much additional study will be needed before the generic lines among these groups can be drawn with certainty.

Literature Cited

King, R. M. and H. Robinson. 1979. Studies in the Eupatorieae CLXXVI. *Phytologia* 44: 84-88.